

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MC-02 ACDA-19 FEA-02 AEC-11 AID-20

CEA-02 CIAE-00 CIEP-03 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FPC-01

H-03 INR-11 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07

RSC-01 SAM-01 SCI-06 SP-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00

FRB-03 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 DRC-01 /191 W

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R 201147Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7841

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 6989

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IR

SUBJ: IRANIAN CONCERNS ABOUT INTERRELATIONSHIP OF US ARMS AND
OIL POLICIES

1. I HAVE RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING LETTER FROM IRANIAN FOREIGN
MINISTER KHALATBARY TODAY (AUGUST 20).

QUOTE

YOU MAY RECALL THAT DURING OUR MEETING THIS MORNING, I REFER-
RED TO WHAT APPEARS TO BE A SORT OF CONCERTED CAMPAIGN THROUGH
THE PUBLICATION OF ARTICLES AND EVEN EDITORIALS ABOUT THE
NATIONAL ARMAMENTS PROGRAMME OF IRAN ON THE ONE HAND, AND
STATEMENTS MADE BY SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN ON THE SAME SUBJECT
ON THE OTHER HAND, THEREBY ENTERTAINING DOUBT ABOUT THE REAL
ARMAMENTS REQUIREMENTS OF IRAN OR THE WISDOM OF THE U.S.
GOVERNMENT IN COOPERATING WITH IRAN TO FULFIL ITS NATIONAL
ARMAMENTS PROGRAMME. I WOULD LIKE ONCE AGAIN TO EXPRESS MY
HOPE THAT THIS CAMPAIGN IS NOT AIMED AT BRINGING PRESSURE TO
BEAR ON THE IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT OF IRAN REGARDING THE PRICE
OF OIL.

PARA. YOU KINDLY EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT IT WAS NOT, IN YOUR
OPINION, A CONCERTED CAMPAIGN BUT RATHER THE PERSONAL VIEWS
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OF SENATORS, CONGRESSMEN AND JOURNALISTS WHICH HAVE NO CON-

NECTION WITH THE OFFICIAL VIEWS AND POLICIES OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, AND YOU UNDERTOOK TO INQUIRE ABOUT THIS AND INFORM ME SUBSEQUENTLY.

PARA. NOW, MY PURPOSE IN WRITING THIS LETTER TO YOUR EXCELLENCY IS TO DRAW YOUR ATTENTION ONCE MORE TO WHAT SEEMS TO BE A CONCERTED CAMPAIGN ON THE PART OF CERTAIN CIRCLES TO BRING PRESSURE TO BEAR ON IRAN, (IN THIS CASE, THROUGH THE NATIONAL ARMAMENTS PROGRAMME) WITH RESPECT TO THE PRICE OF OIL.

PARA. I WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF YOU COULD KINDLY INFORM ME OF THE RESULTS OF YOUR INQUIRY AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE. WITH WARMEST PERSONAL REGARDS, A.A. KHALATBARY, MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS UNQUOTE

2. COMMENT: I DID NOT AS KHALATBARY SUGGESTS UNDERTAKE TO INQUIRE ABOUT WHETHER THERE WAS A CONCERTED PROGRAM TO QUESTION IRAN'S ARMAMENTS POLICY AS A MEANS OF BRINGING PRESSURE ON THE GOI TO LOWER OIL PRICES BECAUSE: (A) KHALATBARY SEEMED SATISFIED WITH MY RESPONSE AT THE TIME AND (B) THE ISSUE DID NOT SEEM TO LOOM LARGE IN OUR CONVERSATION AS A WHOLE. I SPECULATE THEREFORE THAT KHALATBARY REPORTED OUR CONVERSATION TO THE SHAH WHO INSTRUCTED HIM TO PRESS ME FURTHER.

I THINK IT WOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO REPLY TO KHALATBARY THAT I HAVE REPORTED THIS MATTER TO THE DEPARTMENT AND THAT IT HAS CONFIRMED THAT MY EARLIER RESPONSE TO HIM IS ENTIRELY ACCURATE. SHOULD THE DEPARTMENT HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS, HOWEVER, I WOULD BE GLAD TO PASS THEM ON.
HELMS

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